Brittney Raible

Talbots Abroad Period 8

Lesson #7 I Don’t Understand

**1. How do you say: “I don’t understand.” in your culture/language?**

This is how you say “I don’t understand” in Arabic: “Ana la afham” (أنا لا أفهم).

**2. Is there a difference between how a man or a woman says it?**

There is no difference between how a man or woman says “I don’t understand” in Arabic. Both genders will just say the same expression “Ana la afham.”

However, if you’re in this country and you are trying your best to communicate something while using gestures, but aren’t getting the proper response for it, then you can ask “Do you understand?” which in Arabic there is a masculine and feminine difference in the word “understand.” The masculine phrase is “Hal tafham?” (هل تفهم؟). The feminine phrase is “Hal tafhami?” (هل تفهمي؟). (Both are asking “Do you undertand?” in Arabic, but change the form of understand depending on gender)

**3. Are there any extra words which would make your expression more realistic?**

There aren’t any extra words which would make the expression for “I don’t understand” more realistic, but once again, if your communication isn’t going well, (not receiving proper phrase for “I don’t understand) then you can use the masculine or feminine expression for “Do you understand?” to try and improve the conversation.

**4. Are there any gestures associated with this phrase that will let people know you don’t understand or just don’t know?**

Whenever a native speaker of Arabic is talking, they will use a variety of facial and hand gestures. These serve to emphasize what is trying to be said, or can be used on their own as a non-verbal response. So when you don’t understand something, try to shake your head from side to side while saying “Ana la afham.” Even if you mispronounce it, people will understand what you’re trying to say.

**5. How do you say “Can you speak English?” in your language? (Hint: you may need to check out both lesson 7 and 8 or search for the question in the Search bar on the website!)**

I couldn’t find how you say “Can you speak English?” anywhere on the site. (wasn’t in any lesson and the search bar said “no results”)